

# The Alliance Herald

Official Paper of Box Butte County

TWICE A WEEK—TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

Official Paper of the City of Alliance

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No. 8

## PHONE INCREASE PROTESTED BY ALLIANCE MEN

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PASSES A RESOLUTION.

Urges Other Communities in the State to Join in Effort to Defeat Application.

The Northwestern Bell Telephone company, which operates an exchange at Alliance, as well as a good many other places in the state, will not have as easy sledding in its request for permission to increase rates as has been the case on other occasions. An application was recently filed which, if granted, will allow the company to charge \$4 per month for business phones in this city and \$2 per month for residence phones, instead of \$3.55 and \$1.92, the present rates. The increase over present rates would amount to but 15 cents for business phones and 7 cents for residence installations, but that isn't the rub.

The present rates of \$3.55 and \$1.92 include a 10 per cent surcharge. The company was allowed to make this surcharge by order of the railway commission a year ago, and the permission covered a period of six months. In July of this year the company put up another hard luck story and was given the right to make the surcharge for another six months. The surcharge ends the first of January unless the commission issues a new order, and the company has apparently decided to ask for a little more, inasmuch as the last application was granted so easily.

The Alliance chamber of commerce, at its meeting Monday of this week, after a discussion which showed that practically every member present was opposed to an increase in rates, however slight, adopted a resolution of protest, which has been forwarded to the state railway commission. The resolution speaks out quite plainly and says that the chamber of commerce not only thinks the present rates are exorbitantly high, but that the company should be able to serve the community efficiently with less expense.

The resolution follows: "Resolved, By the members of the Alliance Chamber of Commerce, in regular session assembled this 19th day of December, 1921, at Alliance, Nebraska, that

"Whereas, We are advised by the secretary of the Nebraska state railway commission that the Northwestern Bell Telephone company, serving this community with telephone service, has filed an application to publish and collect a new schedule of rates and charges in lieu of the now authorized existing rates, and

"Whereas, It is a well known fact that the charges now levied and made in this community and other communities in the great state of Nebraska are the highest ever charged for this service, in spite of the fact that prices of commodities and labor are constantly going downward, and

"Whereas, The proposed new schedule will put in effect a substantial increase on the present charges, which to us seem exorbitantly high, and

"Whereas, We believe it more proper that rates should be lowered instead of raised, and that it would be possible for the said Northwestern Bell Telephone company to serve this community and other communities throughout this state just as efficiently with less expense, therefore be it

"Resolved, That we hereby petition and request the Nebraska State Railway commission, at the hearing to be held at Lincoln on Wednesday, December 28, to deny the request of said Northwestern Bell Telephone company for an increase in its rates, and be it further

"Resolved, That we urge upon the towns and communities throughout the state the necessity for prompt and vigorous action in this matter, in order that this seeming telephone monopoly be required to render its service in an adequate manner at just and reasonable rates.

ALLIANCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
By GLEN MILLER, Pres.  
Attest: Mrs. L. C. Thomas, Secy.

## No Reduction in Sight for Fords First of the Year

Courtesy & Miller this morning received a telegram from the Ford factory, denying the rumor that further decreases in price are slated for the first of the year. The telegram follows:

"Your attention may have been called to recent newspaper articles and rumors to the effect that there is to be a price drop January 1 as there is no foundation to such rumors and we are not contemplating any price change we have no hesitancy in making a denial of the report. Pass information along to your local papers."

Miss Lucile Scott, who has been teaching in the Mitchell schools, spent a few hours in Alliance today visiting friends. She is en route to her home at Chadron to spend the Christmas holidays with her parents.

## City Manager's Corner (By J. E. EMMISH)

After considerable investigation of the character of Joe's national pool room license to him for the balance of the fiscal year to operate the Alliance pool room at 117 Box Butte avenue.

The St. Agnes Academy filed an application with the city council asking them to vacate and close Twelfth street or Washington avenue north of blocks D and 8 also to vacate Big Horn avenue between blocks D and 8. The petition asks that the St. Agnes Academy be allowed to extend its proposed school building into and upon Washington avenue or Twelfth street north of blocks D and 8. The fact was brought out that the city water mains are now located on Big Horn avenue and Twelfth street north of block D. Twelfth street is the main cross-town connection. The matter was discussed and laid over for further investigation and discussion by those interested.

The telephone company increase was discussed and a representative of the telephone company stated that this proposed increase was taken up as a statewide proposition and that in his opinion should the State Railway commission see fit to grant the increase it would not effect the rates of the Alliance exchange until the provisions of Article 6 of the franchise is complied with.

A request was made in writing by J. W. Miller that the city take over the custody of the municipal pier at Broncho lake. The matter was discussed and laid over for further investigation to ascertain whether or not the city could take it over. In the meantime the city manager was instructed to do what was necessary to protect the property against further vandalism.

## FIRE CHIEF ASKS COOPERATION IN AVOIDING FIRES

WARNS PUBLIC OF CHANCES FOR CHRISTMAS FIRES.

Suggests Precautions That Should Be Taken to Lessen the Danger of a Holiday Blaze.

The happy Yuletide is the best time of the year, for the kids and grown-ups alike, but there are certain dangers attendant upon the Christmas season, from the standpoint of danger from fires, which Fire Chief Bud Shafer has pointed out in a statement to the public. Every year the festive occasion is spoiled for some families because the Christmas tree catches on fire. It may not be the tree, but the whisks of Santa Claus which catch the blaze from the candles. It may be the holly and mistletoe draped suggestively on the light fixtures. A few sensible precautions, which will not detract from the glory of the Yuletide a bit, but will make it safe and sane and fully as enjoyable, are pointed out by Mr. Shafer, who urges for Alliance "a fireless Christmas."

"To the People of Alliance: Practically all fires are caused by the carelessness of someone, and Christmas time is particularly bad. I want to ask the co-operation of the people of our city in making this Christmas 'a fireless Christmas.'"

"Lighted candles on trees, kinsel and celluloid decorations, make a dangerous combination for the Christmas tree. Also, dried holly or mistletoe on light fixtures may be the cause of a holiday blaze. Do not leave the lighted tree alone for a moment. The ordinary Christmas tree candle burns rapidly, sheds paraffin down the sides and soon bends over. This exposes more wick and creates a larger flame and soon the tree is on fire.

"Do not have the lights on the tree so low that the dresses of the children can come in contact with them. All Christmas tree decorations should be fireproof.

"Alliance has every cause to be happy at this Christmas time. With a huge municipal Christmas tree; a present for every child of school age; with out poor well supplied with food and clothing, we should all be happy. Let us take great care this year and use much precaution so that no one will be made sad through loss or injury from fire.

"Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, I am, Respectfully yours,  
"BUD SCHAFER, Chief,  
"Alliance Vol. Fire Department."

## THE WEATHER

Not much change in temperature. At 8 o'clock this morning the snow storm extended only as far east as Ellsworth, but at noon it covered the entire Alliance division, extending as far west as Deadwood. So far at Alliance about 6 inches has fallen, while east of Ellsworth the storm has just started. The temperature over the Alliance division ranges from 0 to 10 or 15 above.

## LIONS DISCUSS A COMMUNITY POTATO CELLAR

APPOINT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE PROPOSITION.

Plan to Ask Co-operation of the Burlington Railroad—Handle Spuds as Elevators Do Grain.

Cub L. E. Bliss, at the Thursday evening meeting of the Lions club, aroused considerable enthusiasm among Alliance members of the organization by his suggestions for a community potato cellar, to be erected by interested people in Alliance and Box Butte county, with the co-operation of the Burlington railroad. Several details of the plan remain to be worked out, but the club thought so highly of the plan that a committee, consisting of Mr. Bliss, Charles Brittan, P. E. Romig and Frank Abegg, was named to investigate the proposition and report back to the club.

Mr. Bliss explained that potatoes are not moving very rapidly at this time of the year, and how a community potato cellar could be of material assistance in the moving of the crop. The speaker showed how the farmers haul potatoes to the various truckside cellars owned by buyers, but these are of insufficient capacity to handle but a small part of the crop at one time. The spud raiser retains the balance of his crop in his own potato cellar. When a streak of cold weather comes along, the truckside cellars are emptied, but the growers are unable then to haul more spuds to the buyers.

Under the plan proposed by Mr. Bliss, the community spud cellar will be of sufficient capacity to handle the spud crop, just as the grain elevators in the eastern communities are sufficiently large to take care of most of the grain crop.

The community cellar would be conducted on the same business plan as grain elevators are now conducted. It would be equipped with bins, sorters, etc., and the grading job would be spared the farmers. Cold weather will lose thousands of dollars to the potato growers of Box Butte county, Mr. Bliss declared, if the market follows its usual course during the cold snaps.

The Lions club adopted a resolution opposing the increase in telephone rates, and will present their protest to the railway commission, which will pass upon the application of the Northwestern Bell Telephone company on Wednesday of next week.

The cubs did not look with favor, however, on a resolution that was presented endorsing a tariff on sugar. This resolution had been presented at the request of the sugar beet growers of the North Platte valley.

Roy Gregg and Donald Spencer, new members, were introduced to the club, and responded gracefully.

The following resolution was passed by the Lions club at their regular meeting Thursday evening:

"Be it resolved, By the members of the Lions club of Alliance, in regular session assembled this 22d day of December, 1921, at Alliance, Nebraska, that

"Whereas, We are informed that the Northwestern Bell Telephone company, owners of the Alliance telephone exchange, has filed an application with the Nebraska state railway commission, requesting an increase in telephone charges for Alliance and other Nebraska towns, and

"Whereas, The charges now being made in Alliance for telephone service seem to us to be higher than they should be in these times, and

"Whereas, Other public service corporations are lowering their rates instead of raising them, therefore be it

"Resolved, That we hereby petition the said Nebraska State Railway commission to deny the request of the said Northwestern Bell Telephone company for an increase in their rates as being inconsistent with the spirit of the times, and be it

"Resolved, That we urge upon the said Northwestern Bell Telephone company the necessity of realizing that the franchise and working agreement recently granted to them by the City of Alliance was an agreement to which both the city and the company were parties and that we believe that the said company are violating this spirit and intention of said agreement by asking for a raise at this time.

LIONS CLUB OF ALLIANCE,  
By W. R. HARPER, President.  
Attest: E. M. BURR, Secretary.

## Alliance T. P. A.'s Plan to Attend the Special Conventior

Several Alliance T. P. A.'s are planning to take advantage of railroad rates to attend a special convention of the Nebraska vision to be held at Omaha, December 27, 28 and 29.

## BIRTHS

December 22—To Mr. and Mrs. Terrence Brennan, a boy.  
December 23—To Mr. and Mrs. Ted Meyers, a girl.

## YOUTHS PLEAD GUILTY TO THE THEFT CHARGE

DOLAN AND ENZOR ADMIT TAKING STUFF FROM WILSON'S

Declare They Are Not Guilty of Burglary, However—Anxious to Begin Serving Sentence.

The youths, who claimed when first arrested to be the brothers Dolan, but later admitted their names were Joe Dolan and Archie Enzor, pleaded guilty in county court Thursday afternoon to the theft of a number of articles taken from the Wilson Brothers Furniture store some time between last Saturday and Monday, and were held for trial in district court under \$500 bonds each, which they were unable to furnish. The youths, who are but eighteen years of age, are ready to begin their penitentiary sentence, and Sheriff Miller and County Attorney Basye plan to take them to Rushville, before Judge Westover, at the earliest opportunity for sentence.

The boys decided, between the time of their return from Bridgeport, where they were picked up by the authorities after the word had been sent from Alliance to surrounding towns, that it was better to tell at least part of the truth. When first examined by County Attorney Basye, they said they were brothers, and both eighteen years of age, but when asked as to their birthdays they ran up against a snag, one giving his birthday in June, and the other in September. The youths were examined separately and when told of their conflicting stories, they admitted their names were Joe Dolan and Archie Enzor.

The boys were perfectly willing to plead guilty to a charge of grand larceny, but not willing to admit that they had broken into the Wilson store, the reason for this being, presumably, that they knew that burglary was a separate count and that they could be given a stiffer sentence if they had broken into the building. They told the story that they had found the stolen goods in two suitcases at the Burlington station, and that they had helped themselves to the suitcases.

Loot Was Recovered

They were were arrested at Bridgeport on a description furnished by one of the Wilson brothers, who remembered having seen them in the store. At Bridgeport they had attempted to peddle the stuff, but with poor success, only one sale, to a pool hall, having been made. The balance of the loot was found in their room at a hotel.

Among the stuff taken from the store were cartons of pocket knives, forks, spoons, shaving brushes, scissors, an electric grill and an electric iron. The total value of the stolen stuff was placed at \$25.15. Identification of the loot was easy, as the cartons were marked with Wilson Bros' price mark and in their handwriting.

According to the stories last told by the two youths, the two of them have been bumming together for several months. Dolan's mother is still living at Thermopolis, Wyo. Enzor declared that his parents had been dead for years and that he was reared by his grandparents in Denver until the death of his grandmother three years ago, when his grandfather had entered the Colorado state soldiers' home. The two have traveled from Denver to Greybull, Wyo., and later to Alliance.

The usual sentence for grand larceny is from one to ten years in the state penitentiary, and inasmuch as the culprits are young, County Attorney Basye did not press the burglary charge.

## Effect of Removal of the War Tax on Express Shipments

The public will save approximately \$1,500,000 a month as a result of the elimination of the war tax on express shipments, according to George C. Taylor, president of the American Railway Express company.

The revenue act of 1921 eliminates the war tax of 1 cent on every 20 cents or fraction thereof in transportation charges on all express shipments. This tax during the year of 1920 amounted to \$17,502,913. The average transportation charge for each express shipment was approximately \$1.50 and the average war tax for each shipment was eight cents. The elimination of the tax, therefore, will virtually amount to a decrease in rates of a little over 5 per cent. Mr. Taylor believes that this should have a tendency to stimulate business and thereby accelerate the rapidly improving conditions throughout the entire country.

Mr. Sigafos, local agent, pointed out that as the revenue act becomes effective January 1, 1922, the tax on all shipments forwarded, prepaid, on or before December 31, will be collected. On shipments forwarded collect and arriving on or after January 1, the tax will not be assessed.

Mr. Mose Morrison will leave on No. 41 for Crawford where he will spend Christmas with his parents.

## Spud Benefit Play Drew Big Crowd to Imperial Thursday

"Nothing But the Truth," the play presented by high school students for the benefit of the Spud, the high school paper, drew a good-sized crowd to the Imperial Thursday evening and was one of the most successful amateur performances ever presented in the city.

Mrs. Inice McCorkle Dunning trained the youthful actors, who carried off their parts in the production most presentably. The leading parts were taken by Rowland Threlkeld and Lee Strong, who did excellent work as the young broker who wagers that he would tell nothing but the truth for twenty-four hours, and the head of the firm, who bet it couldn't be done. King Robbins, who took the part of a sarcastic young broker, was the one most at ease during his part of the play. Edward Morrow as Bishop Doran, made an exceptionally good presentation. Verna Dow and Mariellen Beagle, as a bewildered wife and the sweetheart of the leading man, did some good work, and Josephine Wright, who was a hit in one of last year's performance, was up to the high standard set by herself. Theresa Looney made a most winsome maid and gave plenty of life to one of the minor parts. All of the students showed evidences of careful training, and the performance passed off without a single one of those awkward breaks that sometimes mar occasions of this kind.

Perhaps the finest feature of the evening was a specialty between the first and second acts, when the high school elocution class with little Miss Betty Harper, sang "Peggy O'Neill." Little Betty sang the verse and the others assisted in the chorus. Following the song the class and the singer gave a most attractive dance.

Harry Thiele wishes you a Merry Christmas

## LEGISLATURE TO BE CALLED IN A SPECIAL SESSION

GOVERNOR MCKELVIE PLANS A STATE TAX ON GASOLINE

To Reduce State Tax Levy at Expense of Motorists—Suggests Small Salary Cut for Officials.

Governor Samuel R. McKelvie announced on his return from New York that he intends to call a special session of the Nebraska legislature about the middle of February. He said the principal subject to be included in the call in a proposal to impose a tax of one cent a gallon upon gasoline in lieu of the present tax of gasoline in lieu of the present tax for road building purposes.

If necessary the question of reappropriating \$1,600,000 of the state capitol fund which was not specifically appropriated by the last legislature will be included in the call. The governor said it was barely possible amendments to the fund for the protection of depositors might be included. He is studying that question with a view to a request for special legislation if he believes action is needed.

"I have not talked with members of the legislature about the proposed special session," said Governor McKelvie. "It is my opinion not to hamper the special legislative program with a multiplicity of subjects. A short session is desired."

"At the governors' conference at Charleston, S. C., I talked with Governor Thomas W. Hardwick of Georgia, Governor William C. Sproul of Pennsylvania and other governors about this matter. Such a tax is now imposed by six or eight states. It has been tested in New Mexico and is being enforced in other states. It is considered an ideal tax for road purposes. It makes the heaviest machine pay a heavier tax. It appears to go far in solving the problem of equalizing taxation between real property and other assets. The burden is now too great upon tangible property."

"The plan is to impose a tax of one cent or more upon each gallon of gasoline consumed or sold in this state. This might meet all road purposes and be in lieu of the present state aid road tax."

## Law Tested in Courts

Governor McKelvie said he had the gasoline tax under advisement when the last legislature was in session, but it was not then considered feasible. At that time other states were passing laws of that nature but there was opposition to their enforcement and some were being tested in courts. Under the circumstances it was not thought to attempt such legislation in Nebraska on the ground that it would probably be held up in the courts and no funds would be available under it for at least two years. The governor now considers it advisable to try such a law.

It is likely that one cent a gallon will not be sufficient in lieu of the present state aid road tax. The last legislature appropriated a total of \$2,133,741 from the state aid road tax.

(Continued on page 5)

## PLAN TO ATTEND THE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE

ALL BOX BUTTE COUNTY INVITED FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

Committee Plans Good Program for Big Outdoor Celebration—Gifts for all the School Children

Everyone living in Box Butte county is invited to attend the Community Christmas Tree and program prepared for you by the citizens of Alliance. Everyone should come warmly clad as all will not be able to get close to the bon fires. A small gift has been prepared for each of the school children, who attend these exercises and a short program has been provided as follows:

4:45 p. m.—Bonfires lighted.  
4:55—Arrival of truck with piano and music directors. School children will form a semi-circle about the Christmas tree from the First National bank corner to the Alliance National bank across to the King's Corner. Children coming in from the country and children living in Alliance, over three years of age and not in school will collect on the north side of the tree on Box Butte avenue.  
5:00—Christmas tree lighted.

Santa Claus arrives with boxes containing 2,000 packages for the children, calls for his assistants to help him with the packages.

Community singing. First verse of "America" led by Alliance band and school children.

Words of greeting by Mayro R. M. Hampton.

"Silent Night," by the school children.

Christmas tidings by Rev. Stephen J. Epler.

Christmas carols by all.

"Jolly Old St. Nicholas," by 1,200 Alliance school children in the kindergarten, first, second and third grades.

Santa Claus and assistants give out presents to the children as follows:

Children who live outside of Alliance will be the first to gather on the north side of the tree on Box Butte avenue and will be the first to pass by the Christmas tree and receive their gift from Santa Claus or his assistant. The boys will march in single file past the Christmas tree on the right side of the tree or on the west side and present their cards and receive a gift. The girls will march single file past the tree on the left or the east side of the tree and present their cards. Children who live outside of Alliance and who do not have cards will receive presents if accompanied by an older person to identify them to Santa Claus as being in school.

The second group of children to pass the Christmas tree will be the children living in Alliance over three years of age and not in school. The boys will pass on the right side of the tree and the girls on the left side presenting their cards to Santa Claus. If these little tots do not have cards they will receive gifts if accompanied by an older person to identify them to Santa Claus.

The third group will be all of the school children of the Alliance public schools and Academy up to the high school age. They will pass by the Christmas tree, boys on the right and the girls on the left presenting their cards to Santa Claus for a gift.

Cards have been given to every child in the Alliance grade schools and no presents will be given to a child unless they present cards.

The fourth group, those who may have lost their cards, should there be any presents left they may obtain one if accompanied by an older person to identify them.

Should there be any children, whether in the country or in Alliance, who child has not received a present and if so by coming forward he will take care of them as long as the presents last.

Should there be any children whether in the country or in Alliance who are invalids or sick so that they cannot attend the Christmas tree if their parents will call phone 170 before 5 p. m. Saturday night packages will be reserved for these children.

Mrs. Inice McCorkle Dunning has been training the children for the special music.

## New Dollars Will Be Minted Soon

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The arms conference will be reflected in a new series of silver dollars, minting of which will be started immediately.

The design of the new dollars was approved by President Harding on its submission by Raymond T. Baker, director of the mint, following approval by the fine arts commission. Director Baker said about 700,000 of the new dollars would be coined before January 1.

Somebody has written of the many things that can be made out of cotton. One thing the planter wants to know how to make out of cotton is a profit.

You can tell by the way a man has his hair cut whether he thinks he looks distinguished.